

On March 12, 1925, in a funeral oration drafted by Balfour, the new Foreign Secretary, Austen Chamberlain, stated the reasons to the Council of the League. The chief objection was the increase of the liabilities already incurred under the Covenant, despite the fact that some of the Great Powers were outside the League. "The fresh emphasis laid upon Sanctions, the new occasions discovered for their employment, the elaboration of military procedure insensibly suggest the idea that the vital business of the League is not so much to promote friendly co-operation and reasoned harmony in the management of international affairs as to preserve peace by organizing war, and (it may-be) war on the largest scale," Moreover, disarmament would be brought no nearer, for the fear of aggression would remain. "Either some faithless member of the League will break its pledges, or some predatory nation outside the League will brush the Covenant and Protocol ruthlessly aside, defying all the sanctions by which they are protected/* The Protocol multiplied offences without strengthening remedies. It would be wiser to supplement the Covenant by making special arrangements, purely defensive in character and framed in its spirit, in order to meet special needs. Regional pacts, carefully limited and defined, were more likely to be carried out than a scheme of universal insurance. The declaration ended with the announcement that the Dominions were equally unable to accept the Protocol.

When the Foreign Secretary sat down the scheme was dead, for no comprehensive system could hope to work without British support. A few days later, in defending the decision in Parliament, Chamberlain revealed "the opinion of the experts that its obligations would involve the increase of our arma-

ments. The collapse of the project was deeply
deplored hot
only in League of Nations Union circles at home,
but in Paris
and Geneva, where he was described by a critic
as The Ever-
lasting No. The blow was softened in some
degree by the
fact that a rival plan, more limited in scope and
more congenial
to our empirical temperament, was under
consideration by
the British Government.

VIII. THE SUNSHINE OF LOCARNO

During the early years of the Weimar Republic
German
statesmen were divided into Easterners and
Westerners.
That Germany could not dwell for ever in
impotent isolation
was an axiom, but should she turn towards
Moscow or the